

to honor Eula Hall once again, this time by naming in her honor the road she's traveled so many years. The public is invited to attend and join Eula afterwards for a reception hosted by Big Sandy Health Care.

TRIBUTE TO SELDON SHORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a good friend and fellow Kentuckian, Seldon Short, who with his wife Janet has worked for the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association for the past 49 years and in radio for the past 55.

Mr. Short began his career in broadcasting in 1951 at WMTC-AM, a small radio station in Vancleve, KY. Throughout his time in radio Mr. Short ran the gauntlet of progress, keeping up with the technological changes of the last half century from 78-rpm vinyl records to cassette tapes to satellite delivery, while also expanding his own radio station. After Mr. Short became general manager in 1978, his small AM station grew from 1000 watts to 5000 watts, and in 1991 switched over to the FM dial.

Upon his retirement from WMTC-FM this October, Mr. Short was awarded the J.T. Whitlock Life Member Award from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association for his commitment and dedication to the field of broadcasting.

On October 12, 2006, The Breathitt County Voice published an article highlighting Mr. Short's contributions to his community. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in paying respect to this beloved Kentuckian.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Breathitt County Voice, Oct. 12, 2006]

"A BLESSING TO BREATHITT COUNTY"—
SELDON & JANET SHORT RETIRE
(By Jeff Noble)

All around the room Seldon Short could see friends. Dozens of them came out on a Friday night to say "thank you" to him and his wife Janet. Even after he suffered crippling injuries in a horrible car crash a few years back, he smiles. Even after Janet suffered debilitating illness from an operation some time ago, she remains upbeat.

And they're not bitter. Because of their resiliency, Seldon and Janet Short's faith and love of people keeps them above the rollercoaster that is life. "It does our hearts good to see all these people we've served," Seldon said during a retirement party for him and his wife inside the dining hall of Mt. Carmel High School. "You look around and it's amazing how wonderful life really is. Janet and I will be married 50 years next June. We've been blessed with four children and six grandchildren. And we have a lifetime of memories. God's been good to us, and because of that, we keep going."

Janet gently squeezed her husband's hand as she spoke of the outpouring of love their friends provided at the party. "It's so nice to see all these people. People I've worked with, people who helped babysit for my children when I was on the radio, people who we love and cherish. I'm just thankful the Lord has seen us through during this time, and some-

times, it was rough." Then she looked admiringly at Seldon and spoke softly with a smile. "Seldon, he's a great guy. I don't know what I'd do without him. He's wonderful. I can't brag on him enough."

Neither could some in the room, like his old friend Robert Cundiff. "Seldon loves people. But he is also a shy person," getting a laugh out of the crowd as he spoke. He then told a story about his old buddy, who, like Cundiff, graduated from Mt. Carmel and the former Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute (now Kentucky Mountain Bible College). "For instance, in the cafeteria, Seldon was so shy, he wouldn't even say 'Pass the biscuits.' Can you imagine Seldon doing that?" It was a remark that brought the house down. Cundiff then thanked Seldon for being the "founding father of the Mt. Carmel Former Students Association—our alumni association. Thank you, my old friend."

Not to be outdone, several of Janet's friends and co-workers came to bring yellow roses to her, and to spin some stories about Mrs. Short and her work she and her husband did at WMTC Radio. "While I played piano, I remember Janet reading poems over the radio station," said Donna Woodring. "Sometimes they would be quite inspiring, sometimes they would be whimsical. She was always delightful." Carlene Light recalled another moment. "Janet loved to cook, and she loved to watch you eat. That's why I'm overweight." After getting laughs from the audience, Carlene went on to say, "What's so great about this couple is that Seldon and Janet are focused on people." It was a statement echoed by Faith Amspaugh. "In fact, my children, who are all grown, still call them Uncle Seldon and Aunt Janet."

For many years, Seldon and Janet wore many hats working for the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association. He was with KMHA for 49 years, while Janet worked for 40 years. Of that time, Seldon served as Vice-President of KMHA, as well as positions on the Jackson Kiwanis Club, the Jackson Independent School board, the pastor of two churches (Wolverine for 23 years and Bach Memorial for 18 years), and as a board member of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association (KBA). From his humble beginnings as a part-time announcer in 1951, Seldon returned to WMTC full-time in 1954-55. After going to Asbury College, he came back for good to the radio station in 1958.

He and Janet had a heart for radio, and remained with the station for many years. Seldon became General Manager of WMTC in 1978, saw the station's signal on 730 AM go from 1,000 watts to 5,000 watts, and was at the creation of WMTC-FM, as it went on the air at 99.9 in 1991. "I did a lot of live programs back then. There was no tape as we know it today. Recorded shows were on big, heavy 78 RPM vinyl discs. Then we got old-fashioned recorders that weren't plastic, but paperback. Then we went to reel-to-reel tape recorders, cassette recorders, CD's and satellite delivery. Today is all computerized." Then Short pointed his finger up at the sky and said, "What hasn't changed is the commitment to serving people. I still think trying to be of service to the area you cover is still the most important thing you can do as a broadcaster. You still need to respond to their wants, their needs, their requests and their hunger for information."

That same hunger for service came to his successor, Jennifer Cox. "The Shorts welcomed me to WMTC. I had never worked at a family environment. And I learned from a reliable source." Cox, who succeeded Seldon as General Manager in June of this year, got misty-eyed when she spoke of him. "He did live radio and has gone through the computer age. Everything I know he taught me. Because of Seldon and his vision, we at

WMTC are where we are today. I thank him for his leadership and kindness." At that point, Cox presented Seldon with the J. T. Whitlock Life Member Award from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association. "J. T. was a great friend of mine," Seldon said of the late, long-time Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the KBA. "He was a great friend of the small broadcaster, like us, and he had a great heart for people, and serving those people who listened to him."

As some 50 of their friends munched on cake and refreshments in the dining hall, the Shorts listened as the current President of KMHA reminded the crowd that despite their adversities, Seldon and Janet were not bitter about their experiences. "Both of them are not quitters," said Dr. Philip Speas. "The Shorts are made out of good stuff. They're made of good metal. They've been a real illustration of patience. They are a blessing to Breathitt County."

Toward the end of the reception, Seldon got up out of his wheelchair and looked at the room again. His friends, like Rev. and Mrs. Wilfred Fisher, and his children and grandchildren, were all standing and applauding. The cheering died down. His wife was in tears. He was too, as he softly told them, all his friends for life, "Thank you. God has really blessed us through these long, wonderful years, and all of you have graced us with your friendship. Despite our difficulties, we'd do it all over again. God's grace has been sufficient. It's been a good life."

THANKSGIVING 2006

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, next week, Americans across our great land will be celebrating one of our oldest and most beloved holidays, Thanksgiving.

What a great and glorious holiday this is—a truly and uniquely American holiday. It is a day for giving thanks. A day devoted to family, to country, and to God. A day of eating turkey, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, dressing, and pumpkin pie. It is a day of parades, football games, and the beginning of the Christmas holiday season.

It is a day of family gatherings. Unfortunately, in too many homes this year, and as in the past 5 years, there will be too many empty seats at the dinner table. I hope everyone listening will join me in praying for our sons and daughters who are in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, in praying for the eternal salvation of those who have died in these costly conflicts, and in praying for the speedy recovery of those who have been wounded. While we cannot hope to fill those empty chairs, we can hope that our prayers and our love and support will help to ease the sorrow at those tables.

Even with the turmoil of the past year and with so many of our sons and daughters in faraway lands, we still have so much for which to be thankful.

We are thankful for the Pilgrims—that courageous group of men and women who, in 1621, left their homes, crossed a mighty ocean, and settled in a strange, unknown wilderness so they could go to church so they could worship God as they pleased.

After months of privation, suffering, hunger, sickness and death, these men and women had a great feast to thank

God for being good to them. Think about it. With all the brutal hardships they had endured, with all the death and suffering they endured, they took time to have a great feast to thank Almighty God for being good to them. In the process, they gave us our first Thanksgiving.

We are thankful for the heritage of liberty bequeathed to us by our ancestors. We are thankful for the wisdom and the foresight of our Founding Fathers who bestowed to us a form of government unique in history, with its three strong pillars of executive, legislative, and judicial branches, each balanced and checked against one another.

In fact, Mr. President, that is the very point I want to emphasize. The very first national observance of Thanksgiving, which came in 1789, was to thank Almighty God for His role in creating our great country, and His assistance in the forming of our Constitution.

This happened when, in the very first Congress in 1789, Representative Elias Boudinot of New Jersey moved that a day of thanksgiving be held to thank God for giving the American people the opportunity to create a Constitution to preserve their newly won freedoms.

The resolution, as approved by both Houses of the Congress, requested that a "joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the president of the United States, to request that he recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving."

On September 26, 1789, the first Senate agreed to the House resolution, and a few days later a joint congressional committee delivered to President Washington a resolution "desiring the president of the United States to recommend a day of general thanksgiving."

Within a few days, on October 3, President Washington issued the first national thanksgiving proclamation. Our first and perhaps our greatest President proclaimed Thursday, November 26, 1789, to be a day of national thanksgiving.

That proclamation is a fascinating and informative document. It begins by proclaiming that, "it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor."

The Father of our country left no doubt about his belief that our Nation was not simply the creation of mere mortals but was, in fact, guided by a Divine Hand. As if to emphasize this point, his proclamation went on to praise "that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." He exhorted the people of his young Republic to express their gratitude to Almighty God for his protection of them through the Revolutionary War. He wrote: "We may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and

protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation."

That was George Washington. That was the basis of our first national Thanksgiving.

But he was not through. This was a Thanksgiving proclamation, so he proceeded to give thanks. He asked the American people to be thankful to Almighty God for "the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed."

And he asked the American people to be thankful "for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted."

I hope everyone caught that. President Washington was thanking the Good Lord for the Constitution that created the American Government.

At the request of our first President, citizens throughout the land assembled in churches on November 26, 1789, and thanked God for their government and asked Him for His Guidance in the years ahead. As for President Washington, he spent the day worshipping at an Episcopal church in Manhattan.

As you celebrate this Thanksgiving, enjoy your families. Enjoy your Thanksgiving feasts. Enjoy your football games and your parades.

But like President Washington, you might want to think about attending church on this great and glorious day and give thanks for our many blessings. Like President Washington, you may want to thank God for watching over the United States and for His assistance in the creation of our Constitution, our Nation's most basic and sacred document, which has guided and protected our country for more than 200 years, through world wars, great depressions, and bitter, divisive elections.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JEFFREY SHAFFER

Mr. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is my honor to rise today to pay tribute to one of Arkansas' fallen heroes, PFC Jeffrey Shaffer, who gave his life serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By all accounts from family and friends, Private First Class Shaffer lived his life to the fullest. For this young man, that meant caring for others, having fun, and making people laugh, even when confronted with life's challenges. The image of a tough soldier masked the side most familiar to his loved ones, that of a more playful young man who pulled pranks and brought laughter to lives of others. His stepfather, Mark Adams, recalls a golf outing where neither he nor Jeff was playing particularly well. Rather than suffer through the rest of the game, and to the surprise of Mark, Private First Class Shaffer jumped in the water and began collecting golf balls. Mark had never had more fun playing golf. The day was a testament to the effect Private First Class Shaffer often had on others.

But he also had a humble, more serious side and a deep sense of commitment to his country. While working for his uncle's masonry contracting business in Harrison, AR, he took time to earn his GED. Shortly thereafter, and to the surprise of many in his family, he joined the U.S. Army in February 2005. The tragic events of September 11 changed how he viewed the world and motivated him to serve in the military. For Private First Class Shaffer, serving in the Army was a way he could contribute to the safety of his family and security of all Americans.

The 20-year-old was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division. After being stationed in Germany, Private First Class Shaffer was deployed to Kuwait and later Iraq. Witnessing close friends lose their lives in Iraq, he was never naive about the dangerous realities of war. He believed whatever happened to him was God's will and often told this to his mother to calm her fears. Private First Class Shaffer's life ended on September 13, 2006, after a roadside bomb detonated near his Bradley assault vehicle.

On September 16, family, friends, and fellow soldiers gathered at Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, TX, to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Jeffrey Shaffer. I am proud to pay tribute to him today and am thankful for his service to our country. He leaves behind a 2-year-old daughter, Makayla Grace, who I hope will one day know that her father took full advantage of what life had to offer and brought untold happiness to those around him. My thoughts and prayers are with her, Jeffrey's parents, his aunt and uncle, and all those who knew and loved him.

LANCE CORPORAL KYLE WESLEY POWELL

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I want to bring to the Senate's attention the loss of a young man of great promise from my home State of Colorado: Marine LCpl Kyle Wesley Powell. A member of Unit C Co, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton, Lance Corporal Powell was killed earlier this month in Fallujah, Iraq.

Kyle Powell was a native of Colorado Springs. He was an Eagle Scout who graduated from Cheyenne Mountain High School, and joined the Marine Corps in September 2003. Lance Corporal Powell was on his third tour as a marine in Iraq. During his second tour, he received the Navy Achievement Medal after a bunker which he had designed and constructed absorbed an attack of several enemy rocket-propelled grenades, protecting the marines within it.

In fact, just a few days before his passing, Lance Corporal Powell had saved the life of another fellow marine, applying a tourniquet and firing his weapon at the enemy until they could be rescued.

What jumps out about Lance Corporal Powell is that when people speak